(b) and (c) Certain remote and tribal areas are prone to malnutrition combined with endemic disease. Approximately 363 blocks in 13 States have been identified as vulnerable pockets. Special measures, both short-term and long term, are called for and taken by the Government in the Ministries of Agriculture & Cooperation and Welfare as also by this Ministry. Some of the schemes such as Employment Assurance Scheme are demand driven and are designed to provide wage employment in these circumstances. In response to unprecedented drought in Orissa during 1996, substantial amount of funds have been released by the Union Government to the Government of Orissa for various Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Programmes and also for providing relief and assistance to weaker sections and tribal people.

Efforts are being continuously made to improve implementation of all rural development schemes. Under self employment schemes, measures are taken to raise the level of investment per family and to encourage group activities through the creation Self-Help Groups. Under Wage Employment Schemes, initiatives have been taken to work out the modalities of associating Self-Help Groups of rural landless poor with the execution of schemes and works under Employment Assurance Scheme. Steps have been taken for designing measures to make the Self-Help Groups functional and to identify the type of training required to be imparted to them as also to work out a strategy for instilling a sense of security in the persons registered with .Panchayat about the assurance of employment and measures for enhancing the employment content. Under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, funds are now allocated among District, Intermediate and Village Panchayats in the ratio of 20:15:65 so that there is no undue delay in taking up wage employment works at the local level.

Central Assistance Under EAS to Andhra Pradesh

4216. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released as central share of assistance for implementation of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) during 1997-98 in seven districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of blocks in the States included under the EAS; and

(c) the number of blocks is Chittoor and Guntur districts covered under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) Rs. 1000 lakhs was released to seven districts of Andhra Pradesh during 1997-98 as first instalment under Employment Assurance Scheme to 50 new blocks of the State @ 20 lakhs per block.

(b) and (c) All the blocks of the State of Andhra Pradesh have been covered under EAS with effected from 1.4.1997.

Monitoring of Long Team Action Programme for KBK Project

4217. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any monitoring regarding long term action programme for the KBK Project in Orissa has been conducted; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA-DEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Long term Action Plan (LTAP) for KBK districts of Orissa is being implemented by the Government of Orissa and also reviewed & monitored by